Production of rice, wheat and pulses

2502. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of production of rice, wheat and pulses during the last five years in the country; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to increase the production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The quantum of production of rice, wheat and pulses during the last five years in the country is given in the Statement enclosed. (*See below*).

(b) The following crop production programmes are being implemented:—

(i) Special Foodgrain Production Programme (SFPP) for wheat, maize & millets and pulses;

(ii) Integrated Programme for Rice Development (IPRD);

(iii) National Pulses Development Programme; (NPDP);

(iv) Stepping up of research programmes to develop hybrid rice varieties resistant to pests, diseases and moisture stress; and

(v) Effective market and price support.

Statement

(Production in million tonnes)

Year	Rice	Wheat	Total Pulses
1990-91	74·6	54·5	14·1
1989-90	73·6	49·8	12·8
1988-89	70·5	54·1	13·8
1987-88	56·9	46·2	11·0
1986-87	60·6	44·3	11·7

Import of wheat

2503. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to import wheat from other countries;

(b) if so, the names of those countries and the quantum of import;

(c) the reasons for the import;

(d) whether Government have received any representation against the import from Kisan organizations; and

(e) if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) to (c) The Government have decided to import one million tonnes of wheat with a view to improve its availability and to contain the market prices. No contracts for import of wheat have been finalised so far.

(d) and (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.